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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/627,647	07/28/2000	Yves Fouillet	GENSET.077AUS	2266
23557	7590	09/13/2004	EXAMINER	
SALIWANCHIK LLOYD & SALIWANCHIK A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION 2421 N.W. 41ST STREET SUITE A-1 GAINESVILLE, FL 32606-6669			SISSON, BRADLEY L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1634	
DATE MAILED: 09/13/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary	Application No. 09/627,647	Applicant(s) FOUILLET ET AL.	
	Examiner Bradley L. Sisson	Art Unit 1634	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) Bradley L. Sisson. (3) _____
 (2) Frank C. Eisenschenk, Ph.D., Reg. No. 45,332. (4) _____

Date of Interview: 08 September 2004.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
 c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☐ No.
 If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1-12 and 52-91.

Identification of prior art discussed: See Continuation Sheet.


Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


 Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Identification of prior art discussed: US Patent 5,587,128A (Wilding et al.); Kopp et al., "Continuous

Flow PCR on a Chip," Micro Total Analysis Systems, 1998, D.J. Harrison, A. van der Berg eds., Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, pp. 7-10; Poser et al., Sensors and Actuators A, 1997, 62: 672-675.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Dr. Eisenschenk indicated that as a result his electronic version of the specification having a different format from the printed/scanned version submitted to the Office, incorrect locations of the specification were identified as providing support for new limitations. Dr. Eisenschenk indicated that his response will correctly identify where support can be found. To this end, Dr. Eisenschenk directed attention to page 69, line 31, as providing support for claim 73

Dr. Eisenschenk agreed to submit a substitute specification as the original specification contained numerous pages where text had been obliterated when retention holes had been punched in the sheets.

The rejection of claims under 35 USC 103(a) was discussed. Dr. Eisenschenk directed attention to claims 12 and 66 and to how they had been previously been indicated as being allowable, yet are now rejected. The aspect of a "metal bar" was discussed. Dr. Eisenschenk directed attention to Figure 2 as exemplifying the bar as envisioned by applicant. Mr. Sisson inquired as to whether the "bar" could be metal that is deposited in a channel. Mr. Sisson agreed that the prior art does not teach a metal bar as depicted in Figure 2.

The aspect of the fluid being continuously flowing in the device was discussed. Mr. Sisson noted that claim 1 has been amended so to delete this term, which had been substituted with "unidirectionally." Dr. Eisenschenk noted that claim 79 recites both continuously and unidirectionally. Mr. Sisson indicated that limitations of whether the fluid is continuously and/or unidirectionally speaks to a manner of operation. Mr. Sisson indicated that there is no structural feature of the devices in the prior art that would proscribe the fluid from being caused to flow in either manner.

Dr. Eisenschenk asserted that an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to combine the chip of Poser into the device of Kopp et al., which would not be continuous. Dr. Eisenschenk asserted that both Wilding et al., and Poser et al., teach batch processing and analysis of samples while Kopp et al., teaches continuous flow analysis. Mr. Sisson directed attention to claim 1 that requires the fluid to flow unidirectionally, not continuously, for "at least a portion of said sample pathway." Mr. Sisson indicated that "a portion" can be interpreted as being exceedingly small.

Mr. Sisson pointed to the term "continuously" as being without limit, and a such, fairly encompassed "continuous" flow where the period of continuity can be of virtually any duration, at any flow rate, or until any (unspecified) desired end point is reached, including the flowing of a fluid until it has traversed "at least a portion" of the sample pathway. Mr. Sisson also noted that "continuously" also fairly encompassed flowing an infinite volume for perpetuity.